

JAMES JACKSON.

MEMORIAL

OF

JAMES JACKSON, OF ENGLAND,

*Praying to be paid the sum of three hundred dollars promised to his father by Capt. Paul Jones, and also to be paid the pension due his father for the loss of an arm in battle, on board the ship Bon Homme Richard, in the revolutionary war.*

FEBRUARY 2, 1835.

Referred to the Committee on Revolutionary Claims.

*To the Congress of the United States :*

The memorial of James Jackson, of the Kingdom of Great Britain,

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH :

That your memorialist is the only surviving child and heir-at-law of John Jackson, deceased ; that in September, 1779, the said John Jackson was residing in Yorkshire, in Great Britain, and was decoyed on board the American ship Bon Homme Richard, commanded by Commodore John Paul Jones, and acted as pilot for the fleet under the command of that distinguished officer ; that a few days thereafter, Commodore Jones fell in with the British ships Serapis and Countess of Scarborough, and in the desperate and sanguinary action which ensued, and which resulted in the capture of the British ships, the said John Jackson, while in the office of pilot as aforesaid, had his arm shot off, and was otherwise much wounded and disabled ; that, from the wounds of said John Jackson rendering him unable to be of any further service to Commodore Jones, he gave him a certificate setting forth the facts above stated, and containing a promise that the Congress of the United States should pay to said John Jackson a reward of three hundred dollars in ready money, and, as an indemnity for his wounds, a suitable pension for life.

During the lifetime of said John Jackson, various causes prevented his coming to America to claim the fulfilment of the promises contained in said certificate. After his death, your memorialist, and his brother and sister, delivered the original of said certificate to Richard Tottie, Esq., vice-consul of the United States at Kingston-upon-Hull, in Great Britain, who placed the same, together with other testimonials and papers in relation to the subject, in the hands of William Davy, Esq., then consul of the United States for Kingston-upon-Hull, for the purpose of his forwarding them to

the President of the United States, with such requests as might be proper in the case. All the facts herein set forth are fully set forth under the hand and seal of office of the aforesaid Richard Tottie, vice-consul of the United States at Kingston-upon-Hull, in Great Britain, in his certificate, dated April 17, 1834, which accompanies this memorial, and to which your honorable bodies are respectfully referred.

Your memorialist, James Jackson, being the only surviving child of the aforesaid John Jackson, in consequence of being unable to obtain any information as to what had been the result of the application made through Mr. Davy and Mr. Tottie, determined to come in person to America to make this his humble petition to the Congress of the United States, for the fulfilment of the promise made by its highly distinguished and gallant officer to the unfortunate parent of your memorialist.

It cannot be necessary for your memorialist to say one word upon the justice and equity of this claim. His father was forced into the service of the enemy of his country ; he discharged the duty exacted of him most faithfully, and was maimed and disabled through life, while in the discharge of that duty. He was promised an indemnity for these services, and lasting and grievous injuries ; and it is humbly hoped that this application will not be passed by. Although so long time has elapsed before it is made, the delay may, with great propriety, be accounted for from the disabled state of their father ; his ignorance of the forms and course necessary to be pursued ; and his poverty, which forbade him the expense of a voyage across the Atlantic. So far as regards his children, they made the application in the only way known to them ; that was, through the American consul, and as early as they had an opportunity to do it.

Your memorialist, therefore, prays that the said sum of three hundred dollars may be paid to the heirs of the said John Jackson, and that the pension to which he was entitled may also be paid from the date of the certificate of Commodore Jones, to the death of the said John Jackson.

WASHINGTON, D. C., 1835.

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AMERICAN CONSULATE,

*Kingston-upon-Hull.*

I, Richard Tottie, vice-consul of the United States of America, do hereby certify to whom it may concern, that James Jackson, together with John and Mary Jackson, his brother and sister, did, some years ago, deliver to me a document, dated in September, 1779, on board the *Serapis*, lying in the *Helder*, and signed by Paul Jones, commander of the *Bon Homme Richard* ship of war, then in the service of the United States ; which document testified that he, Captain Paul Jones, a little time previous to the date thereof, was cruising in the said ship on the *Yorkshire* coast, and did, by signal, induce a boat to come alongside, from which he took and detained a man named John Jackson, for the purpose of acting as pilot in the said ship : that, a day or two after, they fell in with the British ship of war the *Serapis*, commanded by Richard Pearson, which, after a severe action, surrendered to the *Bon Homme Richard*, and was taken possession of by the said Captain Paul Jones, and carried into the *Helder* ; that, during this action, the said John Jackson had his left arm shot off, and, being so disabled, the said Captain Paul Jones gave him

the certificate now referred to, which certificate promised that the said John Jackson should receive from Congress a reward of three hundred dollars, or thereabouts, and a pilot's pension for life.

Various causes prevented any application being made to Congress for the fulfilment of the promise made by the document in question, and it lay neglected during the lifetime of John Jackson, and until brought to me some years since by his children, the beforementioned James, John, and Mary Jackson, when, at their request, I placed the said document with other testimonials in the hands of William Davy, Esq., then consul for the United States for Kingston-upon-Hull and its district, for the purpose of his forwarding them to the President, with such requests as he might think proper to make.

No answer to the application having been received, the said James Jackson, who is now the only surviving child of the beforementioned John Jackson, has determined to make his humble petition to Government in person, for such allowance as may be thought right upon the circumstances of the case. To facilitate this object, I have drawn up and certified to this statement.

Dated at Kingston-upon-Hull, the 17th day of April, 1834.

[SEAL.]

RICHARD TOTTIE,  
*Vice-Consul for the United States of America  
at Kingston-upon-Hull.*

*Description of James Jackson.*

Height, five feet three and a half inches ; hair, dark ; complexion, fresh ; aged forty-seven years ; left arm marked "James Study—W. R.—J. J.—P. G. J."

AMERICAN CONSULATE,  
*Kingston-upon-Hull.*

I, Richard Tottie, vice-consul of the United States of America for Kingston-upon-Hull, do certify that J. H. Bromby is vicar of the parish of the Holy Trinity, in the town of Kingston-upon-Hull aforesaid, and that the certificate on the other side hereof is signed by him, according to his acknowledgment personally made to me at Kingston-upon-Hull, this 18th day of April, 1834.

[SEAL.]

RICHARD TOTTIE,  
*Vice-Consul United States of America.*

*Baptisms.*

1790. December 29, James, son of John Jackson, born 20th of February, 1787.

The above is a true copy of the parish register of the *Holy Trinity*, in the town of *Kingston-upon-Hull*. Examined the 16th day of April, 1834, by me,

J. H. BROMBY, *Vicar.*

